

MEMORANDUM

To: 2020 Charter Review Commission (CRC)

From: M. Soraya Smith, Chair, Citizen Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee

Re: Approval for Extended Topic Review

Date: January 24, 2020

ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE

Evaluate citizen-initiated charter amendments & repeals to lower the petition threshold (currently 10%)
Evaluate citizen-initiated amendments, enactments, and repeals to lower the petition threshold (currently 7%)

BACKGROUND

Members of the CRC Committee on Citizen Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process convened on January 8, 2020, 4:00 p.m., to further discuss findings from a variety of resources surrounding the study of lowering the petition threshold for citizen-initiated Charter and Ordinance amendments, enactments and repeals. Following the review of submitted data, historical documents (Supervisor of Elections, League of Women voters) proposal summary review from member Vilchez Santiago, CRC Legal Counsel, and public comment, the committee has moved to not make any changes to the existing threshold percentages outlined in the current Citizen Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process.

The provided historical documents, legal summaries, data, and citizen input did subsequently highlight the limiting components of the currently outlined 180-day processes/timeline in Orange County Charter (Article VI Section 601) available for Orange County citizens. Therefore, the Citizen Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee moves to continue its work to ensure this process in no way limits citizens from successfully carrying out a citizen-initiated charter or ordinance amendment petition including tolling considerations given the multiple county departments required to move forward in this petition process (Supervisor of Elections, County Board of Commissioners, Comptroller's Office and the appointed Legal Review Panel).

ACTION REQUESTED

The Citizen Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee of the 2020 CRC requests authority from the full CRC to look at all aspects of the 180-day timeline limitation as it affects the petitioner's ability to proceed in a timely basis with a citizen initiative petition.

For your quick reference, I have attached a copy of the Petition Timeline as provided by the Supervisor of Elections Office-Bill Cowles on December 2, 2019, extracted from Attachment H page 6.

/Attachment